

## Message Text

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47

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-04 NSC-05 SS-15 NEAE-00

SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 /072 W  
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O R 151245Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7250

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

USUN NEW YORK 308

USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 2296

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE

SUBJECT: APRIL 15 SYRIAN MEDIA REPORTING ON LEBANON

1. SYRIAN MEDIA CONTINUED FOCUS ON DEVELOPMENTS IN LEBANON APRIL 15. MAIN THEMES WERE CLEAR FROM AL-THAWRAH HEADLINE: "LEBANESE POLITICAL FIGURES WELCOME PRESIDENT ASAD'S SPEECH AND DEMAND RESUMPTION OF SYRIAN INITIATIVE TO SETTLE CRISIS. POLITICAL ACTIVITY IN LEBANON CONCEN- TRATED ON ELECTION OF NEW PRESIDENT, NOW THAT FIRST STEP OF SYRIAN INITIATIVE HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED." AL-BAATH HEADLINE WAS SIMILAR, MAKING ADDED POINT THAT "LEBANESE PUBLIC OPINION EXPECTS SYRIA TO CONTINUE ITS INITIATIVE."

2. NEWS STORIES CARRIED STATEMENTS BY VARIOUS LEBANESE FIGURES SUPPORTING SYRIAN INITIATIVE. CHAFIC AL-WAZZAN, CHAIRMAN OF ISLAMIC HIGHER COUNCIL, "SUPPORTED  
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THE BLESSED SYRIAN INITIATIVE, FIRMLY REJECTED IDEA OF

INTERNATIONAL FORCES IN LEBANON, AND REJECTED NON-SYRIAN INITIATIVES WHICH LEAD ONLY TO PARTITION AND DIVISION." PRIMIN KARAME QUOTED AS SAYING TO WORLD NEWS AGENCY THAT SYRIAN POSITION IS A SOUND ONE. KARAME ALSO REPORTED AS RECEIVING DELEGATION OF THREE OFFICERS OF LEBANESE ARAB ARMY TO WHOM HE EXPLAINED SOUNDNESS OF SYRIAN POSITION.

3. EDITORIAL COMMENT IN AL-BAATH CLAIMED THAT "WHIRLPOOL OF DESTRUCTION WHICH HAS ENVELOPED LEBANON FOR PAST YEAR WAS ENGINEERED ABROAD AND PLANNED BY PENTAGON CIRCLES WHO ENTRUSTED ITS IMPLEMENTATION TO PARTIES OF SINAI AGREEMENT." COLUMNIST ANALYZED LEBANESE SITUATION AS "WIDE DOOR OPENED BY SADAT TO WASHINGTON ALLOWING IT TO STRIKE AGAINST OPPONENTS OF ITS POLICY OF STEP-BY-STEP, SEPARATE SETTLEMENTS, AND ENDING STATE OF BELLIGERENCY WITH ENEMY."

4. TISHRIIN WAS ONLY PAPER TO MENTION APRIL 15 STATEMENT OF PRIMIN RABIN. ITS HEADLINE READ: "RABIN ATTACKS SYRIAN EFFORTS. AMERICA AND ISRAEL CONCUR IN ATTACKING SYRIA. LEBANESE STATESMEN DEMAND CONTINUATION OF SYRIAN ROLE." TISHRIIN CONTINUED IN ITS LEAD ARTICLE: "ENEMIES OF SYRIA'S CONSTRUCTIVE EFFORTS IN LEBANON CONCUR WITH RABIN WHILE IMPOSTERS ARE CALLING FOR ARABIZING AND INTERNATIONALIZING LEBANESE CRISIS AND ARE ATTACKING SYRIAN EFFORTS TO STOP BLOODSHED AND TO PREVENT DIVERSION OF ARABS FROM THEIR FUNDAMENTAL BATTLE AGAINST IMPERIALISM AND ZIONISM. RABIN HAS JOINED CAMPAIGN AGAINST SYRIA BY THREATENING INTERVENTION IF THE SO-CALLED SYRIAN MILITARY INTERVENTION EXCEEDS ITS LIMITS. RABIN ALSO STATED THAT ISRAEL IS IN CONSTANT COMMUNICATION WITH U.S. ABOUT LEBANESE SITUATION." ARTICLE WENT ON TO ACCUSE VOA OF PARTICIPATING IN CAMPAIGN AGAINST SYRIA, CLAIMING IT HAD BROADCAST NEWS ABOUT LEBANESE OPPOSITION TO RESUMPTION OF SYRIAN MEDIATION. ARTICLE ALSO QUOTED SECRETARY KISSINGER AS SAYING THAT SYRIAN FORCE MOVEMENTS WERE APPROACHING LIMIT OF ISRAELI TOLERANCE.

5. ACTION REQUESTED. WOULD APPRECIATE CHECK WITH VOA TO DETERMINE IF TISHRIIN REFERENCE IS BASED JUST ON UNCLASSIFIED

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NEWS COVERAGE OR ON POLITICAL COMMENTARIES CARRIED BY VOA ON LEBANESE SITUATION.  
MURPHY

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## Message Attributes

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**Concepts:** POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, PRESS COMMENTS, CIVIL DISORDERS, SPEECHES  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, SY, LE, (ASAD, HAFIZ)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006